

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 /065 W

----- 025333

R 150435Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3392

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 4930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG, NP

SUBJ: NEPALESE REACTION TO BANGLADESH COUP

1. SUMMARY. NEPAL CONTINUES TO WATCH SITUATION IN BANGLADESH WITH AN EYE TO DANGER OF INDIAN INTERVENTION. PRESS COMMENT HAS BEEN SPARSE, REFLECTING LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN DACCA. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA PERSONNEL WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED HAVE OPENLY EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CONTINUED INSTABILITY IN BANGLADESH WOULD RESULT IN DIRECT INDIAN INTERVENTION. THESE FEARS, WHICH WERE STRONG 5-7 DAYS AGO, HAVE DIMINSHED ALTHOUGH ONE INDIAN SPECIALIST NOVEMBER 14 SAID THAT GON WAS FEARFUL THAT MILITARY UNREST AMONG SEPOYS COULD PROVIDE EXCUSE FOR GOI ACTION. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, MFA BELIEVES THAT FAVORABLE COURT DECISION ON MRS. GANDHI'S ELECTION LAW VIOLATIONS WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN COOLING DOWN INDIAN OPINION FAVORING INTERVENTION.

3. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US AND CURRENT HEAD OF POLICY
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PLANNING STAFF KHANAL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NEPAL DID NOT WANT

TO SEE ANY OF THE MAJOR POWERS BECOME EMBROILED IN BANGLADESH.
THIS VIEW IS NO DOUBT SHARED BY A NUMBER OF SENIOR OFFICIALS
WHO RECOGNIZE DANGER THAT CRISIS MIGHT ESCALATE IF THERE
WERE INTERVENTION BY ANY STATE, BE IT INDIA, USSR OR PRC.

4. PRESS COMMEND HAS BEEN BLAND AND MUNDANE ("IT IS NOW
TIME FOR PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH TO WORK TOWARD NATIONAL UNITY")
AND STORIES HAVE DOWN PLAYED MORE DRAMATIC EVENTS OF PAST
WEEK INDACCA. IN PART LACK OF PRESS COMMENT REFLECTS POOR
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN DACCA AND KATHMANDU AND CONSEQUENT LACK
OF RELIABLE INFORMATION ON SITUATION.

5. HMG APPEARS TO BE WAITING AND WATCHING SITUATION BEFORE
MAKING ANY MAJOR ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THIS OR FUTURE REGIME
MEANS IN TERMS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IS HOLDING IN
ABEYANCE PLANS TO NAME RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO DACCA. ASIDE
FROM NASCENT EFFORT TO FORM INTERNATIONAL JUTE CARTEL THERE
IS NOTHING IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS OF
OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO HMG, NOR WHICH REQUIRES MAJOR
RETHINKING OF POLICY IN TERMS OF NEW GOVERNMENT. CARGO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA04930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750398-0758
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751140/aaaabjjk.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEPALESE REACTION TO BANGLADESH COUP
TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006